

9 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence
SUBJECT : MACV's Upward Revision of Enemy
Strengths in III Corps

1. A Saigon press item (attached) indicates that MACV has raised its estimates of enemy forces in III Corps and adjacent Cambodian sanctuaries from 55,000 to 91,000 as of April-May 1970. The most recent comparable CIA/DIA estimate was about 65,000 men as of December 1969.

2. The MACV revision is based on their reading of the documents captured during the current Cambodian operations. Thus the revision represents new intelligence, not a build-up of enemy strengths.

3. Our reading of these documents makes it clear that both Washington's and MACV's estimates are too low. When complete analysis of the captured documents is made the strength of enemy forces *in III Corps* may well be on the order of 90,000 men. OER, for example, is preparing a study on the structure and strength of COSVN based on newly captured documents. Our preliminary analysis indicates that some 15,000 additional combat and administrative service personnel will be added to our estimates of COSVN strength.

4. The greater part of the additions represent the discovery of new units. For the most part these units are also administrative service or support types rather than combat forces.

5. We lack enough specific information about the MACV revisions to make any further analysis at this time. It is certain that we will all have to raise our figures though the Washington adjustments will be smaller than those being made by MACV --

partly because MACV apparently is now recognizing units which we have been carrying for some time.

6. Finally, DIA has taken a position that it is too soon to make any revision of its estimates pending the receipt of additional documentation. In fact as recently as yesterday it surfaced estimates for 1 June 1970 based on previous estimates and without any caveats that they are obviously too low.



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Deputy Director
Economic Research

Attachment:
As stated above.